

PARENT

EARLY BIRD

E3

mensuel: août 1966
monthly: Aug. 1966

FHPubl 9

Remember us? we still are a monthly (auggh!) zine of news and comments about French sf, horror and fantasy literature and cinema, and about comics, including both fan and pro activities. "Early Bird" is published by Michel FERON, 7, Grand-Place, HANNUT (Belgium). Our prices are: 50 belgian francs, 5 french francs or \$ 1.00 for 12 issues. You can pay with Belgian, French, Luxemburgian or US bank-notes, or by international money order to my address (NO COINS PLEASE!). If you prefer, you may send 9 international reply coupons. "Early Bird" is also available in trade for other fanzines, after previous agreement. Due to cost of printing and mailing, locs are welcomed, but not accepted as payment.

12 issues by air mail: Europe (including Great-Britain): 62 bfr or 11 IRCs - USA and Canada: 80 bfr, \$ 1.60 or 14 IRCs - other lands: price on request.

ads: full page: 60c, 30 fb, 3 ffr or 5 IRCs - 1/2 page: 40c, 20 bfr, 2 ffr or 3 IRCs - 1/4 page: 20c, 10 bfr, 1 ffr or 2 IRCs. I accept only one page of advertisements per issue, so I can't warrant your ad will be accepted.

A sort of editorial

Well, here we are again... or, to say the "ultimate truth, here we are at last... Our last issue was intended to be ~~MAX~~ March issue, but was out about Apr. 15. This issue was really intended to be out on Apr. 30. But something quite unexpected happened those days. I had no time to cut myself the stencils for "Early Bird", so a kind girl was cutting them for me... But she does not know English ("Coca-Cola", "flirt" and "playboy" are the only English words she knows)... Nevertheless, she tried to cut the stencils for "Early Bird" nr E2 (the first English issue I ever published) and succeeded (sort of, at least). It was quite very difficult for her, so she said me: "I've done it once, but I'll never do it again..."

In that time, as I said, I had absolutely no time for doing it myself, I was already too busy with some examinations I had at the University. So I was forced to wait until now to have another issue out.

I am afraid it was quite unfair to subscribers and traders, who were waiting for "Early Bird" and did not receive anything... I hope they'll excuse me for this "gafiation". I can promise "Early Bird" will now be issued on a regular monthly schedule. Furthermore, each issue will now contain at least four pages. In the next issues, we'll have, I hope, some art -- art from French fans, I mean, if I can find some: French fan-draughtsmen are quite rare...

I had also promised a short story of French comicdom. I am afraid comicfans will not find any such item in this issue: I think they'll prefer to have a longer and well-done one in next issue, rather than a short and incomplete one in this issue. We'll also have in next issues a regular column about French and Belgian native comic-strips.

Next issue will be out some day between Sept. 15 and Sept. 30.

Before putting an end to this editorial, I'll ask you, once again,

to forgive the long delay for this issue, and, once again too, to forgive the errors I'll certainly do using your language.

French pro mags

"FICTION", as I have already said, is the French edition of "Fantasy and Science-Fiction". It is published by 'les Editions OPTA' and its chief editor is Alain Dorémieux, well known specialist of sf and fantasy, and writer of several short stories. The April issue of "Fiction" (nr 149) contained the first episode of the adventures of Cugel the Clever: "The Overworld". Almost all readers were ~~xxxxxx~~ anxiously waiting for this story, as it was the first "sword-and-sorcery" tale to be translated into French. This first meeting with an unknown type of literature was not too disappointing. We also had Zeana Henderson's "And a little child" and Otis Kidwell Burger's "Love child" (her first tale to be translated into French), and "Quatre roses pour Lucienne" ("Four roses for Lucienne"), a fantasy tale of young French writer Roland Topor, better known for his horror cartoons. There were also sf tales, of course: Robert Lory's "The Star Party", Miriam Allen DeFord's "The absolutely perfect murder", Terry Carr's "Hop-friend" and Sydney van Scyoc's "One man's dream". Also two tales written by French fanpublishers: "Lorelei", by Jacqueline H. Osterrath (who publishes the fanzine "Lunatique") and "Chronoléthite", second professionally published text of Guy Scovel (who, under his real name of Jean-Pierre Fontana, publishes the best French fanzine "Mercury" and the first French filmfanzine: "Mercury-Bis").

The May issue (nr 150) contained the following US tales: "A stick for Harry Eddington" (Chad Oliver), "Chameleon" (Ron Goulart), "Turning point" (Arthur Porges), "Romance in an eleventh century recharging station" (R.F. Young), "A miracle too many" (Philip H. Smith and Alan E. Nourse) and the second adventure of Cugel the Clever: "The Mountains of Magnatz". This second tale was not so good, and some fans were beginning to think that "sword-and-sorcery" literature was, after all, not so interesting... Of course, there were also some French tales: "Sur mesures", a sf story, the first published text of Claude J. Le-grand; "Le grand amour de Madame Grimmer" ("The great love of Mrs Grimmer"), an horror tale of the greatest living Belgianfantasy writer Thomas Owen; "Le jeu" ("The play"), by Roland Topor; and "...où fleurit l'étranger" ("... where the stranger flourishes"), a very strange tale of young Belgian fan Gabriel Deblander (G. Deblander was first published in fanzines, mainly "Mercury" and "Atlanta").

In the June issue (nr 151), we had Roger Zelazny's "A rose for Ecclesiastes", Richard Wilson's "The eight billion", M.A. DeFord's "Rope's end", G.C. Edmondson's "The galactic calabash", Jack Sharkey's "Collector's item", Kit Denton's "Burning spear". The French tales were: "Kaléidoscope à charge" ("Kaleidoscope for the prosecution"), by young French fan Georges Kilian (once again, a writer first revealed by French fanzine "Mercury"); "Le troisième oeil" ("The third eye"), by Juliette Raabe; "Tanaele", by Jacqueline H. Osterrath; "Retour dans l'île" ("Back in the island") by Daniel Walther (his 2nd published text)

In J. issue (nr 152), mainly "S" tales: R.F. Young's "L'arc de Jean-ke", Jack Sharkey's "Essentials only", Otis Kidwell-Burger's "The zoo-kee" and Gordon R. Dickson's "Salmanazar". Also "The sorcerer Pha- the third adventure of Cugel the Clever. It's too soon to know the reaction of French fans to this third tale, but, as it is quite better than the second, I think it may have reconciled them with sword- sorcery. Two French tales only: Guy Scovel's "Les naufragés d'Harp- ocate" ("The castaways of Harpocrate"), first published in the fan- z "Lunatique", and Gabriel Deblander's "Les fous autour de l'Arbre" (ie fools around the Tree). As all Gabriel Deblander's tales, this e was very good and very strange. G. Deblander does not write sf r fantasy... his tales are just different, too subtly different, so eir difference can't be explained with words. I hope "F&SF" will e day publish the English translation of some Deblander's tales ay wouldn't you write to F&SF to ask these translations, at least e translations of his two best tales: "Les murs" ("The walls") and e "Fiction" also issued its 9th special issue (nr 150bis), it's called e astounding: L'Age d'Or de la Science-Fiction, 2ème série" ("Astoun- ing: The Golden Age of Science-Fiction, 2nd series") and contains 9 tales from Simon & Schuster's Second Astounding SF Anthology. These tales were: "E for effort" (T.L. Sherred, 1947), "Child's play" (William Tenn, 1947), "Thunder and roses" (Theodore Sturgeon, 1947), "The night train" (Eric Frank Russell, 1948), "Cold war" (Kris Nevil- le, 1949), "Eternity lost" (Clifford D. Simak, 1949), "Over the top" (Lester del Rey, 1949), "Last enemy" (H. Beam Piper, 1950), "Histori- cal note" (Murray Leinster, 1951). This second anthology was very wel- comed here, as we have very few opportunities to read tales from As- tounding (Astounding had no French edition). The second French pro mag is "GALAXIE". It's of course the French edi- tion of "Galaxy", but contains tales from "Galaxy", "If" and "Worlds of Tomorrow". It's also published by 'les Editions OPTA' (these Edi- tions OPTA also publish the French version of "Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine" and "Hitchcock Magazine", they also published the French edi- tion of "Suspense") and its chief editor is also Alain Dorémieux. Un- til now, this edition of "GALAXIE" has published only American tales. In order to shorten this article (it's becoming somewhat long, don't you think?), I'll only give a listing of the tales contained in the last issues, the first 3 tales listed for issues nr 24 & 25 are the tales who won the readers' poll. I also give the issue and the name of the mag where the original tale was printed (WOT = "Worlds of To- morrow", G = "Galaxy").

April 66 (nr 24): "Starchild" (2nd part; Williamson and Pohl, from If; chosen as the best tale of the issue by 29 % of the readers), "The co- lony that failed" (Sharkey, from WOT of Aug. 64; 21%), "Jungle substi- tute" (Aldiss, from G of Aug. 64; 19%). Also: "Wasted on the young" (Brunner, from G of Apr. 65), "And all the Earth a grave" (MacApp, from G of Dec. 63), "The genius heap" (Blish, from G of Aug. 56), "In vino veritas" (Bloch, from G of Dec. 59), "The hills of home" (Coppel, from G of Oct. 60).

May 66 (nr 25): "Starchild" (3rd part; Williamson and Pohl, from If; 27%), "A glass of Mars" (Young, from WOT of July 65; 26%), "The lone- ly man" (Thomas, from G of Apr. 63; 18%). Also: "The big engine" (Lei-

French pro mags (cont'd from p.3)

-ber, from G of Feb. 62), "A guest of Ganymede" (Mcapp, from WoT of Jan. 63), "When the people fall" (C. Smith, from G of Apr. 59)
June 66 (nr 26): "Goodlife" (Saberhagen, from WoT of Dec. 63), "Founding father" (Asimov, from G of Oct. 65), "The long way" (Bertram Chandler, from WoT of Nov. 64), "Guardian" (Bixby, from If of March 64), "Mindswap" (Sheckley, from G of June 65).
July 66 (nr 27): "Research Alpha" (VanVogt and Schmitz, from If of July 65), "Small dear" (Simak, from G of Oct. 65), "Blue fire" (Silverberg, from G of June 65), "Moon dog" (Clarke, from G of Apr. 62), "Three to a given star" (C. Smith, from G of Oct. 65)
Augustus 66 (nr 28): "On messenger Mountain" (Dickson, from WoT of June 64), "Shall we have a little talk?" (Sheckley, from G of Oct. 65), "Old Testament" (Bixby, from If of July 64), "The prince and the pirate" (Laumer, from If of Aug. 64), "Coming out party" (Lory, from WoT of July 65), "We hunters of men" (McAllister, from If of Aug. 65), "The life hater" (Saberhagen, from If of Aug. 64)

The great question about "Galaxie" is now to know if their publishers should include French tales in their mag, like they did for "Fiction". The former edition of "Galaxie", published by another firm, published French tales, and the US tales were often shortened (sometimes of 1/2 of the original English text!), so after 65 issues, the publishers were forced to stop the publication. Two years ago, 'les Editions OPTA' decided to publish it again, and said they would only print US tales. As they were many fans of US sf here, the new Galaxie was a complete success. Some readers asked recently French tales, causing an immediate answer from those who like only sf from US. A recent poll among the readers gave the following results: 52% for the publication of French tales, 48% against. However, the editor of "Galaxie" has decided to keep the formula of a 100% American "Galaxie".

ad:

Available now: THE GARDEN GHOULS GAZETTE. Our fifth year of publication brings an issue of over 60 pages including reviews of "Dracula, Prince of Darknes", "Son of Frankenstein", Japan's newest monster Camera, and France's own Fantomas, all with photos. In addition, there is Filmicon a recap of 1965 films, book reviews, letter column, movie news + other miscellania, it contains over 12 pages of offset photos and a beautiful color insert on "The skull". All for only 3/- from European agent Gary R. Parfitt, 10 Dartmouth Avenue, Oldfield Park, Bath, Somerset, England or from the editor Fred Clarke, 1410 Diversy, Elmwood Park, Ill. 60635, USA, for 50c.

Well, this issue of "Early Bird" was, once again, devoted only to pro news. Next issue will be mainly devoted to fandom: we'll have the story of French comidom, also a listing of recent issues of French fanzines. We'll also have special reports on the Second Fannish War, who has just begun in France.

You are receiving this issue of "Early Bird" for the reason checked:
you subscribed ☒ we are trading, I'll write you soon ☐ I owe you a letter, that I'll write realsoonnow ☒ I just decided to send you this issue.